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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of grace and goodness, thank You for giving us another day.

Your divine wisdom and power are abundantly sufficient for our many needs. Endow the Members of this assembly with a loyalty that never waivers and a courage that never falters as they seek to fulfill the high and holy mission which has been entrusted to them.

May it be their purpose, and all of ours, to see to the hopes of so many Americans, that we authenticate the grandeur and glory of the ideals and principles of our democracy with the work we do.

Grant that the men and women of the people's House find the courage and wisdom to work together to forge solutions to the many needs of our Nation, and ease the anxieties of so many.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CALLING FOR ZHU YUFU RELEASE ON TIANANMEN SQUARE ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, 1989, pro-democracy demonstrators were killed by Chinese troops while peacefully advocating for government accountability and political and economic reforms.

In the aftermath, the Chinese Government arrested large numbers of protesters and their supporters, prohibited other demonstrations, expelled foreign journalists, and have prohibited discussion or remembrance of these events ever since.

Today is a solemn reminder of the state of human rights in China 26 years after Tiananmen Square.

Since 2011, Zhu Yufu, a Chinese democracy advocate, Christian dissident, and poet has languished in prison simply for expressing his democratic beliefs. Today, I urge his immediate and unconditional release.

As part of the Defending Freedoms Project, my colleagues and I will continue to shine a light on Zhu Yufu's case and that of other prisoners of conscience. I applaud Zhu Yufu and his fellow champions of freedom for their courage. We thank them for their courage. They are not alone.

URGING SUPPORT FOR SANCHEZ-YOUNG SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE FOR TERMINALLY ILL ACT

(Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, imagine that your loved one was diagnosed with terminal leukemia on January 1. They will undergo chemotherapy, need daily medical care and attention, and be unable to work.

Without any income, they apply for Social Security disability insurance benefits and are quickly approved. However, due to an archaic, bureaucratic law, your loved one will have to wait 5 months before receiving any benefits. If you were diagnosed with a terminal illness on the first week of the new year, you wouldn't receive disability benefits until this week, the 21st week of the year.

Mr. Speaker, I wish this was just a hypothetical example, but this happened to an Albuquerque resident and my friend, Jeremy Sanchez, who had to wait months before receiving the benefits that he earned, after being diagnosed with leukemia.

That is why I, along with my colleague Congressman ISRAEL, am introducing the Sanchez-Young Social Security Disability Insurance for the Terminally Ill Act, which would repeal the 5-month waiting period for the terminally ill and ensure that SSDI protects the most vulnerable recipients when they need it most.

I urge my colleagues to support this sensible bill.

HONORING LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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